GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1649
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
COMPREHENSIVE POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a Comprehensive Poverty Alleviation Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to associate the private sector for development of skill, wage employment and setting up of rural industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether many Non-Governmental Organizations have also proposed to help the Government to implement Poverty Alleviation Schemes; and

(f) if so, the details of the concessions and assistance proposed to be extended to them for implementation of the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b): Review of Poverty Alleviation Programmes is a continuous process. Programmes are reviewed to strengthen and revamp them to increase their efficacy in poverty alleviation. Provision of Supplementary Wage Employment has been the major instrument for poverty reduction. In November 2004 the Government introduced a National Food For Work Programme in the 150 backward districts to provide additional wage employment to rural poor. The proposed National Employment Guarantee Programme to be introduced through an Act of Parliament will be a comprehensive Poverty Alleviation Programme.

With the enactment of the Bill, the existing Sampoorn Grameen Rozgar Yojana and National Food for Work Programme would be merged in the districts where Employment Guarantee Act would be implemented to provide guaranteed employment of at least 100 days to every poor family seeking manual work. The Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has highlighted the consequential changes that may have to be made after the enactment of Employment Guarantee to rationalize programmes that seek to provide wage employment as well as protect nutritional security of the rural poor. In addition a programme for self- employment through Self Help Groups will continue.

(c) & (d) : Private sector makes an important contribution both to output and to employment in the country. The private sector has played a leading role in provision of both education and vocational training. Rural industries are largely set up by private entrepreneurs. The Government is committed to create an enabling environment which promotes and fosters private entrepreneurship leading to establishment of industries that generate output and provide employment opportunities. The Government has also approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to upgrade 100 Industrial Training Institutes to Centers of Excellence. These ITIs would be upgraded in the public / private partnership mode.

(e) & (f): The Tenth Plan gave a place of prominence to the role of civil society and voluntary sector in governance and development. Voluntary sector is recognized as a partner in development and is associated in the task of planning and implementation of development programmes. Council for Advancement of People`s Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), an autonomous society under the Ministry of Rural Development, has issued guidelines in March, 2005 to involve NGOs in a number of schemes. These are:

? Natural Resource Development and Management (NRDM)
? Rural Industrialization, Income Generation and Market Access (RIMA)
? Technologies for Rural Development and Promotion of Information Technology (TGRD&PIT)
? Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS)
? Scheme for empowerment of Rural women, SC, ST & disadvantaged groups and
for Persons With Disabilities (PWD) in rural areas (EWSCTD Scheme)
? Human Resource Development Scheme (HRDS).

In addition, Government assists NGOs to take up programmes for the welfare of the poor and disadvantaged groups and of women.

Planning Commission has issued guidelines to Central Ministries and State Governments to facilitate the work of voluntary organizations. These guidelines suggest setting up of grievance redressal mechanism, notification of State Planning Departments as the nodal agency for voluntary sector, to constitute State Joint Machinery for Government and voluntary sector collaboration and to take appropriate steps for capacity building of NGOs.